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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/037,219

11/09/2001

James B. Goddard

AES 107 P2

5658

22852

7590

10/23/2006

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER
LLP
901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413

EXAMINER

THOMPSON, KENNETH L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3672

DATE MAILED: 10/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/037,219

Applicant(s)

GODDARD ET AL.

Examiner

Kenneth Thompson

Art Unit

3672

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-25 and 27-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-23, 27-34, 36-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 24, 25, 35 and 52 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The indicated allowability of claims 18-23 and 37-39 is withdrawn.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

While providing enablement for the reinforcement means location intermediate two guide lines, the specification does not disclose the substantial width of the reinforcement being greater than a single corrugation including a single crest and trough.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

Claims 24 and 25 are objected to because of the following informalities:

The recitation "adjacent" in claim 24, line 2 is misleading and should be deleted.

Appropriate correction is required.

In claim 25 the recitation "at least two corrugations comprising at least two axially-spaced, annular crests and an annular valley therebetween" should be changed to "at least two corrugations comprising at least two axially-spaced, annular crests and valleys" or the like, since a each corrugation have a valley and crest.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 29 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bonnema et al., U.S. 4,9,813,473.

Bonnema et al. discloses a plastic pipe for accommodating fluid flow (col. 2, line 65) having a female (15b) and male (15a) sections and an annular sealing element (36) or gasket on an exterior of the male trough section sealingly engaging the lumen of the female section. Bonnema et al. discloses a fixed diameter reinforcement ring, belt or strap (37) covering an exterior of the female section having a width smaller than a corrugation (including a single trough and crest), located offset from the seal configured to prevent disconnection of the seal enabling, readily releasable latch members.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 18-23, 27-34, and 36-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goddard, U.S. 6,126,209 in view of Bonnema et al., U.S. 4,913,473 and in further view of Fawley et al., U.S. 5,632,307.

Goddard discloses the corrugated female and male connection, sealing element (60) and all the claimed limitations except for the reinforcing material disposed around, covering or coating an exterior of the female end. Bonnema teaches use of a reinforcing material (37; col. 7, lines 16-20) bindingly disposed around the exterior of the female end opposite a trough to help maintain (col. 8, lines 12-16) the latch connection facilitating the sealing engagement. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to arrange a reinforcement band on the exterior of the female end in a position most effectively maintaining the sealing engagement of the connection; as taught by Bonnema et al., to provide retention insurance and increase the pressure rating of the connection. Goddard in view of Bonnema et al. does not disclose covering the exterior of the female connection with a hardening uncured fluid containing reinforcing glass fibers. Fawley et al. teaches use of an applied layer of glass fibers and an adhesive to the exterior of a pipe (col. 7, lines 5-40) for reinforcing the same. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art the time of the invention to arrange for the exterior of the female connection to have a glass fiber reinforcement, as taught by Fawley et al. to further strengthen the joint (col. 6, lines 21-23; lines 60-65).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 25 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objection set forth in this Office action.

Claims 24, 35 and 52 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 27 September 2006 with respect to the prior art of Hegler and Toliver have been fully considered and are persuasive.

Applicant's arguments filed 20 October 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The pending claims do not require water-tightness.

The prior art of Bonnema et al. is in the field of applicant's endeavor, corrugated pipe connections, and reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned, the maintenance of a sealing connection.

The pending claims do not require a specific method of coupling.

The prior art reinforcement resist disconnection of the seal enabling means; and as such, the sealing engagement as well.

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Conclusion

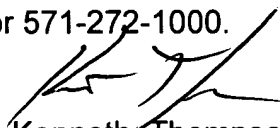
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth Thompson whose telephone number is 571 272-7037. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David J. Bagnell can be reached on 571-272-6999. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

17 October 2006


Kenneth Thompson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3672